

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LILONG 00958 171113Z

14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /067 W

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R 170850Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 353

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMCONSUL DURBAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MI

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF CHIEF OF SPECIAL BRANCH

1. WE HAVE NOW HEARD REPORT FROM SEVERAL SOURCES AND BELIEVE IT TO BE TRUE THAT FOCUS GWEDE, WIDELY FEARED CHIEF OF THE POLICE SPECIAL BRANCH, HAS BEEN DETAINED. HE WAS THE MAN WHO CAUSED PROBLEMS FOR NELLO TEER LAST APRIL AMONG OTHER THINGS. AS TO REASON FOR THIS ACTION OUR BEST GUESS, WHICH BRITISH SHARE, IS FACT THAT WITHOUT CLEARING ACTION WITH PRES. BANDA HE DETAINED FOR SOME WEEKS A NUMBER OF ZIMBABWE FIGHTERS WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO CROSS MALAWI FROM TANZANIA ENROUTE TO MOZAMBIQUE. SUBSEQUENT CRITICAL PUBLICITY IN TANZANIA PRESS PRESUMABLY EMBARRASSING TO BANDA AT TIME WHEN HE IS HOPING TO REGULARIZE RELATIONS WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND IN CURRENT GENERAL CONTEXT OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM.

2. DATT REPORTS AT LEAST SOME SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS HAPPY AND RELIEVED AT GWEDE'S APPARENT DOWNFALL.
STEVENSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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